

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01

ICA-11 /095 W

-----089050 232339Z /63

R 231511Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6709

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

S E C R E T BRUSSELS 09976

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PINT, ET, CU, BE

SUBJECT: REACTION OF EUROPEAN LEFT TO CUBAN INVOLVEMENT  
IN ERITREA

REF: STATE 129942

1. THE BELGIAN LEFT HAS PAID LITTLE ATTENTION TO THE  
CUBAN ROLE IN ASSISTING THE MENGITSU REGIME TO RESOLVE  
ERITREAN PROBLEM MILITARILY. THIS IS ALSO TRUE FOR  
THE REST OF THE BELGIAN POLITICAL SPECTRUM.

2. PUBLIC MEDIA ACROSS THE WHOLE BELGIAN POLITICAL  
SPECTRUM HAS CARRIED STRAIGHT FORWARD NEWS REPORTS,  
BASED ON INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICES, OF THE CLAIMS,  
DENIALS AND CONFIRMED REPORTS OF CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
FIGHTING IN ERITREA. DIRECT CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IS  
NOW TREATED AS A FACT BY ALL.

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3. THE ONLY COMMENTARY ON THE CUBAN ROLE WE HAVE BEEN  
ABLE TO FIND WAS IN THE TROTSKIITE WEEKLY, LA GAUCHE,  
ON MAY 11. IN A LONG ARTICLE, CUBA IS SEVERELY  
CHASTISED FOR PERPETRATING CRIMES IN THE NAME OF  
SOCIALISM, AND WORKING AGAINST THE INTERESTS OF THE  
WORKING CLASS. THE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ERITREA IS  
CHARACTERIZED AS DESIGNED TO STOP AND DEFEAT A REAL

SOCIALIST REVOLUTION. THE EXPLANATION OFFERED FOR CUBAN POLICY IN ERITREA IS THAT NEITHER THE CUBAN GOVERNMENT NOR COMMUNIST PARTY ARE ACTING ON BEHALF OF THE WORKING CLASS - THE CLEAR IMPLICATION BEING THAT THEY ARE ACTING ON BEHEST OF THE SOVIETS. FYI: THE TROTSKIITE MOVEMENT IN BELGIUM (LRT) IS A SMALL, POLITICALLY INSIGNIFICANT GROUP PRIMARILY COMPOSED OF INTELLECTUALS. DE TARR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
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